

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

In the claims

1.-27. (cancelled)

28. (cancelled)

29. (currently amended): The method of Claim 50 ~~28~~, wherein said irradiating step is performed by emitting a light energy having a wavelength of about 240 nm to about 280 nm.

30. (currently amended): The method of Claim 50 ~~28~~, wherein said irradiating step is performed by emitting light energy having a wavelength in the red visible range.

31. (currently amended): The method of Claim 50 ~~28~~, wherein said irradiating step is performed by exposing the walls to radiation emitted by a radioactive pellet.

32. (currently amended): The method of Claim 50 ~~28~~, wherein said irradiating step is performed by moving an energy delivery device along the airway.

33. (currently amended): ~~A method for treating asthma comprising the steps of: providing a source of energy; and~~
The method of claim 50, wherein irradiating walls of an airway with the energy at a wavelength and intensity sufficient to cause the airway also causes debulking over time in mucus gland cells and ~~preventing~~ prevents the mucus gland cells from replicating.

34. (original): The method of Claim 33, wherein said irradiating step is performed by emitting a light energy having a wavelength of about 240 nm to about 280 nm.

35. (currently amended): The method of Claim 33, wherein said irradiating step is performed by emitting light energy having a wavelength in a the red visible range.

36. (original): The method of Claim 33, wherein said irradiating step is performed by exposing the walls to radiation emitted by a radioactive pellet.

37. (original): The method of Claim 33, wherein said irradiating step is performed by moving an energy delivery device along the airway.

38. – 49. (cancelled)

50. (currently amended): A method of treating asthma to relieve asthmatic symptoms, the method comprising:

providing a source of energy; and

irradiating walls of an airway of an asthmatic lung with the source of energy at a wavelength and intensity which, over time, causes debulking of tissue of the asthmatic lung and prevents the lung tissue from replicating, wherein said irradiating step is performed by irradiating smooth muscle tissue in the asthmatic lung.

51. (cancelled)

52. (new): The method of claim 50, further comprising placing a visualization system into the airway.

53. (new): The method of claim 52, wherein the visualization system comprises an endoscope or bronchoscope.

54. (new): The method of claim 32, wherein moving the energy delivery device along the airway comprises moving the energy delivery device in a uniform painting-like motion.

55. (new): The method of claim 54, wherein moving the energy delivery device in the uniform painting-like motion comprises moving the entire energy delivery device either manually or by motor.

56. (new): The method of claim 50, wherein irradiating walls of the airway with the source of energy comprises using an energy selected from a group consisting of infrared, visible, and ultraviolet.

57. (new): The method of claim 56, wherein irradiating walls of the airway with the source of energy comprises using incoherent light.

58. (new): The method of claim 56, wherein irradiating walls of the airway with the source of energy comprises using coherent light.

59. (new): The method of claim 50, wherein irradiating walls of the airway with the source of energy comprises irradiating the walls of the airway at an intensity sufficiently bright to penetrate mucus in the airway.

60. (new): The method of claim 50, further comprising delivering a photo-activatable substance to the airway.

61. (new): The method of claim 60, wherein the photo-activatable substance comprises a psoralen.

62. (new): The method of claim 60, wherein an absorption spectrum of the photo-activatable substance is matched to the source of energy.